

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

EDITED BY WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO ARKANSAS. By Mel White. American Birding Association, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado. 1995:259 pp., 53 maps, 20 black-and-white photographs, 16 line drawings. \$16.95 (soft wrap-around cover).—This is the seventh in the series of the American Birding Association's birdfinding guide series, which is a revision and extension of the Lane series which served birders well for many years. Like the other six guides published so far, this book is well-written, well-edited, and well-designed and a must for anyone interested in birds visiting an area covered by one of the series. The book is sturdy, printed on heavy paper with a wire-o binding and a wrap-around cover which serves to protect the book and/or serve as a book mark. Its roughly 15 by 21.5 cm size is small enough to fit into a car's glove box and some jacket pockets. It is designed to be used.

An introductory chapter has sections on the physiography of the state, the birding calendar, and historical and ecological notes. The book is written with humor, and the section entitled "Weather and other pests," which provides useful information on ticks, chiggers, mosquitos, poisonous snakes, etc., concludes with "Try not to walk off any cliffs." The major portion of the text describes 59 birding sites clustered into five geographic regions bounded by county lines. Each regional cluster of sites has an introduction and map of site locations, followed by detailed descriptions, including a map, of each site. The site maps are clear and readable, and descriptions of directions are given to a tenth of a mile—an excellent feature. The usual list of useful telephone numbers for the local birding "hotline," travel information, etc., are supplemented by the numbers to call for information for any of the sites in state or federal parks or preserves. Following the site guide chapters are sections on "specialty birds" and bar graphs for each species giving status (e.g., "hard to miss," "lucky to find") throughout the year. Additional appendices list "seldom-seen" and "accidental" birds, and lists of Arkansas mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and butterflies.

I cannot imagine anyone interested in birds visiting Arkansas without taking a copy of this book along.—WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.

STORIES I LIKE TO TELL: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. By H. Elliott McClure. Privately printed, Camarillo, California. 1995:373 pp., 110 black-and-white photograph figures. Available in paperback for \$14 (S&H incl.) from H. Elliott McClure, 69 E. Loop, Camarillo, California 93010-2327.—This is the story of an entomologist turned ornithologist and naturalist who began his professional career as a wildlife biologist studying doves in the mid-west and ended it nearly 35 years later with involvement in an international bird-banding scheme in Asia. This very personal narrative includes recollections of youthful adventures from dodging streetcars with his bicycle to an awe-inspiring viewing of a local doctor's butterfly collection. The pages are full of interesting anecdotes, including many which are bird related. Twenty-five years were spend in Asia, beginning with an cncephalitis study in Japan, and many adventures describe exotic birds and places. There are chapters on hornbills and bulbuls and lots of birdwatching adventures in, for example, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaya. A lot of historical information on M.A.P.S. (Migratory Animals Pathological Survey) Asian project is woven into the latter part of the book. Several hundred photographs (usually several per figure) present a photographic collage of everything from family photos to scorpions and hornbills.

Despite the minor annoyance of the many typos, occasional grammatical collapses, lack